

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention teaches a method of compressing still images in a multi-purpose compression system. The current invention teaches preprocessing of the images 5 to a YUV 4:2:0 format and decomposing the images using two-dimensional Discrete Wavelet Transformation. The current invention teaches that filters may be selected based on image dimensions. After the image is decomposed, the frequency coefficients are quantized and the data is entropy encoded. The image is restored by reversing the compression process.

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